

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
JUNE 25, 2018  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2018-0236  
2502 TOWER DRIVE

## PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1951 house.

## ARCHITECTURE

One-story, irregular-plan, stone-veneered frame house with an integral one-car garage; hipped roof; fixed-sash picture windows with no pane configuration; small, inset entry porch at the right side of the main block of the house.

## RESEARCH

The house was built in 1951 by A.R. and Dorris Schrank, who lived here for the rest of their lives. A.R. Schrank was a professor of physiology at the University of Texas who also served as acting dean and dean of the College of Natural Sciences at UT. He was a native of Aleman, a German community in Hamilton County, Texas, and earned his Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Texas in 1942. He then went on to teach at Southwest Texas State, UT Dental Branch, and at the University of Texas, where he served as the associate chair of the Zoology Department from 1959 to 1963, and then as chair from 1963 to 1970. In 1976, he was appointed the dean of the College of Natural Sciences at UT, a position he maintained until his retirement.

## STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the scope of the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house represents upper middle-class housing from the early 1950s in its size, scale, materials, and location, but the integrity of materials appears to have been compromised with the installation of several large, plate-glass windows in the front of the house at an unknown time.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was the home of a UT professor for around 50 years. Dr. Schrank was a noted expert in the field of plant physiology.
- c. **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.




## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center. The house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic

landmark due to apparent changes in fenestration that have significantly compromised the integrity of the house.

## LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 169'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2018-0236  
LOCATION: 2502 Tower Drive



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

2502 Tower Drive  
ca. 1951



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2502 Tower Drive

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
June, 2018

1992	Auline R. and Doris Schrank, owners Professor Emeritus, University of Texas
1985-86	Auline R. and Dorris T. Schrank, owners Professor, University of Texas
1977	A.R. and Dorris Schrank, owners A.R.: Professor, University of Texas Dorris: Employed by the public schools
1973	A.R. and Dorris Schrank, owners Professor, University of Texas
1968	A.R. and Dorris Schrank, owners Professor, University of Texas Also listed is Kent Schrank, a student.
1962	A.R. and Dorris Schrank, owners A.R.: Professor, University of Texas Dorris: Teacher, Austin Senior High School

- 1959 A.R. and Dorris Schrank, owners  
Professor, University of Texas
- 1955 A.R. and Dorris Schrank, owners  
Director, Growth and Bioelectric Research, University of Texas
- 1952 A.R. and Dorris Schrank, owners  
Teacher
- 1949 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: A.R. and Dorris Schrank are listed at 402 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **A.R. and Dorris Schrank (ca. 1951 – ca. 2016)**

Auline R. Schrank appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the 14-year old son of Herman and Emma Schrank of Aleman, Hamilton County, Texas. Auline was born in Texas and had no occupation listed. He had a younger brother, Milton, 13. His father, Herman Schrank, was a 36-year old Texas-born farmer whose parents had been born in Germany. His mother, Emma Schrank, 33, had been born in Texas to Texas-born parents, and had no occupation listed.

#### **Dr. A.R. Schrank**

Dr. A.R. Schrank, professor emeritus, The University of Texas, died February 16, 2001. He was born August 15, 1915, in Hamilton County, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schrank, and one brother, Col. M.A. Schrank, USAF.

He is survived by his wife, Dorris Parke Schrank; son, Dr. Kenton Parke Schrank and wife, Andrea, of Sherman, Texas, daughter, Dr. Karon Simpson and husband, Dr. Scott Simpson, of Austin; grandchildren, medical student, Amber E. Schrank, college sophomore, Travis P. Schrank, college freshman, Gayle Simpson, high schooler, Kristin Simpson, and fifth grader, Sean Scott Simpson.

Dr. Schrank's personal and academic background are illustrative of his self-reliance and straightforwardness. Dr. Schrank grew up on a farm in Hamilton, Texas, where his family was one of several German families in the area. Throughout his higher education, Dr. Schrank had to work in order to finance his way. First, in 1934, Dr. Schrank received an Associate of Science diploma from John Tarleton Agricultural College in Stephenville. Next, in 1937, Dr. Schrank earned a Bachelor of Arts De-

gree with honors from Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos. Dr. Schrank's undergraduate major was Biology with minors in Education and German. Finally, in 1942, Dr. Schrank earned his Ph.D. from UT majoring in Physiology with minors in Bacteriology and Chemistry. At the university level, Dr. Schrank's work has been extensive. Foreexample, Dr. Schrank has functioned in many different capacities such as Teaching Assistant, Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Visiting Professor, Department Chairman, Associate Dean, Acting Dean, and Dean of Natural Sciences. Moreover, Dr. Schrank has taught at several different schools, UT, Southwest Texas State, and The University of Texas

Dental Branch at Houston. In addition, Dr. Schrank has taught a wide variety of courses including Cellular Biology, Human Physiology, General Physiology, Biophysics, Plant Physiology, and Bioelectrics. Here at UT, Dr. Schrank has contributed much as an effective administrator. Initially, Dr. Schrank served as Associate Chairman of the Zoology Department from 1959 to 1963 and then as Department Chairman from 1963 to 1970. When the College of Natural Sciences was first formed in 1971, Dr. Schrank was selected as Associated Dean to Dr. Sam Ellison, the first Dean of the College of Natural Sciences. Later, in 1973, Dr. Schrank became Acting Dean when Dr. Ellison retired. When Dr. Ellison's successor, Dr. Olum, left UT to go to the University of Oregon, Dr. Schrank once again served as Acting Dean. Finally, in 1976, Dr. Schrank was selected as Dean of the college of Natural Sciences. Dr. Schrank has won many honors and published numerous works as a researcher. For example, Dr. Schrank is a member of numerous professional societies such as The Texas Academy of Sciences, The American Society of Plant Physiology, The Scandinavian Society of Plant Physiology, The Society of Sigma Xi, The American Institute of Biological Sciences, The Biophysical Society, The Society of General Physiologists, and Phi Kappa Phi. Likewise, Dr. Schrank has published over thirty works and has collaborated on numerous others. Much of Dr. Schrank's research has involved plant physiology, bioelectric potentials, tropisms, growth phenomena, and regeneration. In terms of personal interests, Dr. Schrank's activities are as diverse as his academic and professional pursuits. For instance, Dr. Schrank is an avid sportsman. At San Marcos, Dr.

Schrank ran track and played football, baseball, and basketball. In the past, Dr. Schrank has officiated local high school football games. Dr. Schrank acted as a spotter for Wally Pryor during UT home football games. Dr. Schrank is also a strong supporter of the Lady Longhorns. Similarly, Dr. Schrank is an enthusiastic outdoorsman. Dr. Schrank has enjoyed hunting deer, wild turkeys, and doves on his property near Dripping Springs. Also, Dr. Schrank has enjoyed fishing on nearby lakes as well as deep sea fishing. He was a proud member of the Society of Applied Piscatology, SAPS, at U.T.! Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish  
Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar, 452-8811.

Obituary of Dr. A.R. Schrank  
Austin American-Statesman, February 18, 2001

SCHRANK, Dorris Parke



We celebrate the life and gift of Dorris Parke Schrank, Mommy Dorris (D), our wonderful mother, mentor, and friend. As we think about Mommy D, the words that come to mind include loving, caring, giving, working, inspiring, and laughing. She almost made it to the age of 100, she was 99 when she peacefully went to sleep for the last time, under a beautiful full moon, on October 15, 2016. She was a retired Austin High School math teacher, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and lifelong Longhorn.

She was born February 6, 1917 in Kyle, Texas. Her parents were Edna B. Hooker Parke and Oscar G Parke II. Her sister Mary B. Parke Hall is living in Tulsa, Oklahoma and she was preceded in death by her brother Oscar G. Parke III and her husband Dr. A.R. Schrank.

She is survived by her son Kenton Parke Schrank MD and his wife Andrea (of Pottsboro, Texas); daughter Karon Schrank Simpson MD, and her husband J. Scott Simpson MD (of Austin, Texas); grandchildren Lt.Col. Amber E. Schrank Ritenour MD, and her husband Lt.Col. Josh Ritenour MD, Travis Parke Schrank MD, and his wife Yana Mikhaylov MD, Madison Paige Schrank, Gayle



Simpson Patel MS, and her husband Niraj P. Patel MS MBA, Kristi Simpson Plotnick MHA, and her husband Jonathan D. Plotnick BA, Sean S. Simpson MS (almost MD) and his wife Abbie Arnold Simpson PA; and great grandchildren Abigail Ritenour, Caleb Ritenour, Amelia Patel, Lila Patel, and Addison Plotnick.

Dorris grew up in Kyle, Texas and graduated from Texas State University, majoring in English and mathematics. Her first job was in Kerrville, Texas, as a math teacher, where she was only two years older than her students. She continued to teach math at University Junior High, in Austin, Texas, where she reconnected with and married Auline Raymond Schrank, and helped him complete his PhD at the [University of Texas](#) at Austin (UT). Dr. Schrank continued as a biology professor at UT, where he later served as the Dean of Natural Sciences.

Once married, Dorris spent most of her time raising her two children and supporting UT. Later, she returned to teaching after her children were in school. She taught math including trigonometry, pre-calculus, and calculus to many of the Austin High School students for 20 years. She was a tough, but fair, teacher and challenged her many students (including her children and their friends) to do well in her advanced math classes, and then their chosen professions. She was always the kindest teacher and was loved and respected by many people. She loved her family dearly, and will be missed and remembered by them for years to come, as well as by her many friends and former students. Despite her advanced age and other challenges, Dorris continued to care for herself, home, and finances independently, until two months prior to her death.

Kent, Karon, and their families would like to invite you to remember Dorris and celebrate her life with them on November 12, 2016, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm, at 16407 Kidd Lane, Austin, Texas. In lieu of flowers, contributions or memorials may be made to All Saints Episcopal Church or the UT General Scholarship Fund.

Obituary of Dorris Schrank  
Austin [American-Statesman](#), November 2, 2016

A. R. Schrank 2502 Tower Drive  
 162 S.W. 75x150' of 2 D - -  
 Monte Vista #2  
 Brick veneer and frame residence with gar.  
 attached.  
 47391 1-29-51 \$14,000.00  
 L. M. Cummings

5

Building permit to A.R. Schrank for the construction of this house (1951)

*Permit not valid 30 days*

**WATER SERVICE PERMIT** No. 8495  
 Austin, Texas (Mrs. Schrank) 473-4203

Received of A. R. Schrank Date 2-13-51  
 Address 2502 TOWER DR  
 Amount TWENTY & NO/100 \$ 20.00  
 Plumber GISELL Size of Tap 3/4"  
 Date of Connection 3-5-51  
 Size of Tap Made 3/8"  
 Size Service Made 3/4"  
 Size Main Tapped \_\_\_\_\_  
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 25'  
 From W Prop. Line to Curb Cock 30'  
 Location of Meter CURB  
 Type of Box LOCK  
 Depth of Main in St. 3'  
 Depth of Service Line 2'  
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 34'  
 Checked by Engr. Dept. 4-2-51 RL

**INDEXED**

No.	Fittings	Size
1	Curb Cock	5/8"
1	Elbow	3/8"
1	St. Elbow	3/4"
1	Bushing	3/4"
1	Reducer	3/4"
36	Pipe	3/4"
1	Lead Comp.	
1	Nipples	
1	Union	
1	Plug	
1	Stop	
1	Box	
1	Lid	
1	Valves	
Job No.	W-323502	
Permit No.	1122561	

Water service permit to A.R. Schrank for this house (1951)

Receipt No. 17174 Application for Sewer ConnectionN<sup>o</sup> 28780AAustin, Texas, 7-16-1951

To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by  
A.R. Schrank at 2502 Tower Drive,  
 further described as Lot SW 75' X 150' of 2 Block D Outlot — Division —  
 subdivision Monte Vista #2 Plat 162, which is to be used as a Room  
 In this place there are to be installed 5 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 42603  
 I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge.

Depth at Prop. Line 3'

Sub-  
 Connected

28' E of Hillman  
 (Location)

Respectfully,

R.W. Gies  
9-18-51

Date 7-24-51By Ramona

NOTE: Connection Instruction

6" Main in St. 7' deep  
Main 12.5' sq ft  
8/14/51

Sewer connection application by A.R. Schrank for this house (1951)

OWNER	<u>A. R. Schrank</u>		ADDRESS	<u>2502 Tower Drive</u>
PLAT	<u>162</u>	LOT	<u>SW 75' X 150' of 2</u>	BLK <u>D</u>
SUBDIVISION	<u>Monte Vista</u>			
OCCUPANCY	<u>Storage</u>			
BLD PERMIT #	<u>100342</u>	DATE	<u>7-18-66</u>	OWNERS ESTIMATE <u>1,500.00</u>
CONTRACTOR	<u>M G Blankenship</u>		NO. OF FIXTURES	<u>no</u>
WATER TAP REC #	SEWER TAP REC #			
<u>Frame &amp; Brick Veneer Storage Room</u>				
<u>240 sq.ft.</u>				

Building permit to A.R. Schrank to construct a storage room (1966)